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FACTS ABOUT OSAGE FARMS

Department of Agriculture
Farm Security Administration

OFFICIAL NAME:	Osage Farms
LOCATION:	In Pettis County, central Missouri. Project Headquarters: Sedalia, Missouri.
HISTORY OF PROJECT:	Initiated by Resettlement Administration. Preliminary approval, December 5, 1935. Final approval, March 25, 1936.
PURPOSE OF PROJECT:	To provide land for families who are moving from submarginal land being purchased and retired from agricultural use. Families will purchase their farms, amortizing the cost at 3 percent interest over a 40-year period, payments to be comparable to present rental cost on tenant farms.
DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:	This infiltration project has two co-operative farms: Bois d'Arc, 1,884 acres, and Hillview, 591 acres. The 24 families in Bois d'Arc and the 9 families in Hillview have individual homes and gardens and cultivate the farm land in common. The remaining 33 farms average 75 acres each. The loess soil, built up by wind erosion, is cultivated for the double cropping of barley and soybeans, oats and lespedeza, and wheat and lespedeza. A major portion of the crops is fed to livestock, including hogs, dairy cattle, and poultry. Dairy and poultry units are located on both co-operative farms. Bois d'Arc also raises beef-cattle and sheep. Since Pettis County has well-developed buying and selling co-operatives, none are planned for the project.
HOUSE DESCRIPTION:	Each unit has a house equipped with necessary water and sanitary facilities, barn, poultry house, hog house, and fencing. Of the houses on the project, 47 5-room houses have been built and the rest repaired. No community facilities were planned, as the communities where the units were located already had adequate educational, social and transportation facilities. Water and sewage disposal systems have been provided for the project.

HOMESTEADERS: Families for occupancy were selected from among those who were moved from unproductive land taken over for Land Utilization projects and National Park projects. Families sharing in the rehabilitation program and former tenant families were also accepted.